

2022 Legislative Priorities Poll Report

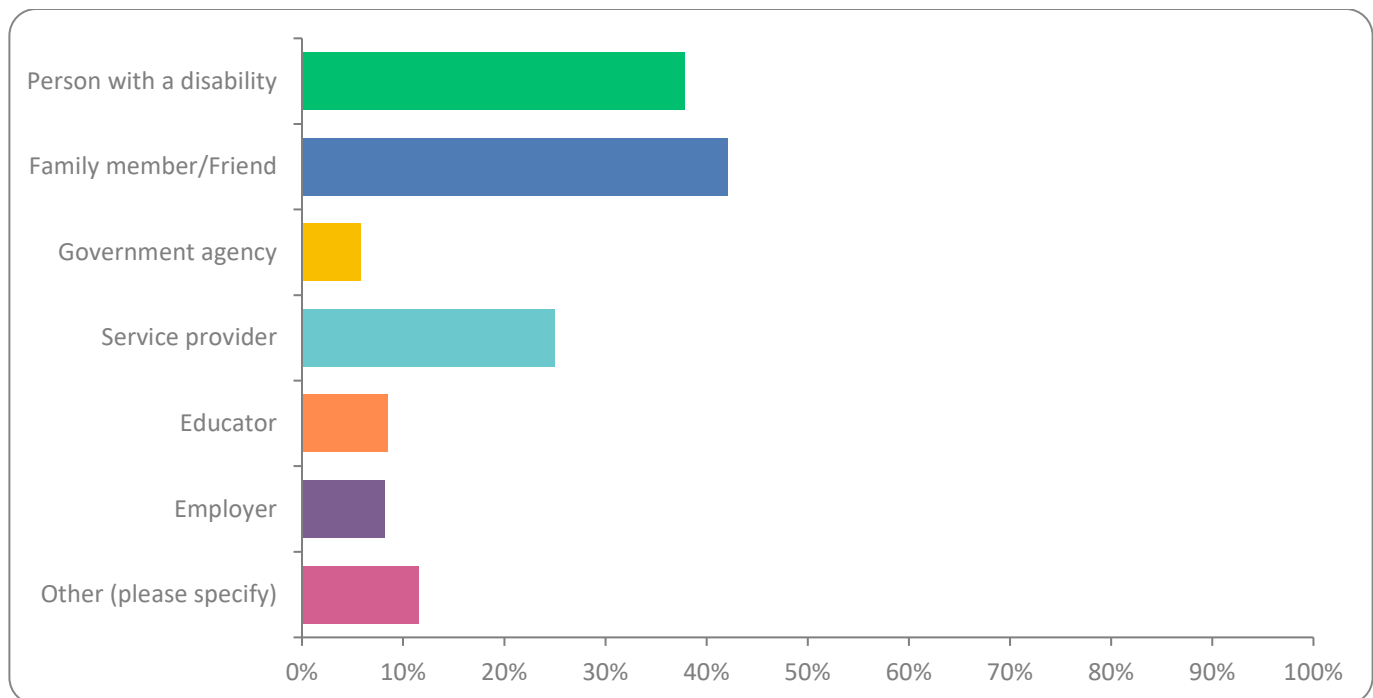
The Governor's Council on Disability recently conducted its annual poll to determine the level of importance disability related issues have to Missourians impacted by disability through their personal and/or professional lives. The results will be shared with council members, the Governor, state legislators, and other interested groups. The poll was available to individuals via the Governor's Council on Disability listservs, Twitter, Facebook, website, personal contacts, and other organization contacts. It was provided in PDF and Survey Monkey formats.

Four hundred fifty-two (452) polls were returned.

The top five priorities for the Governor's Council on Disability for the coming year are determined by the questions which receive the highest combined percentage of strongly agree and agree responses. The 2023 priorities will be:

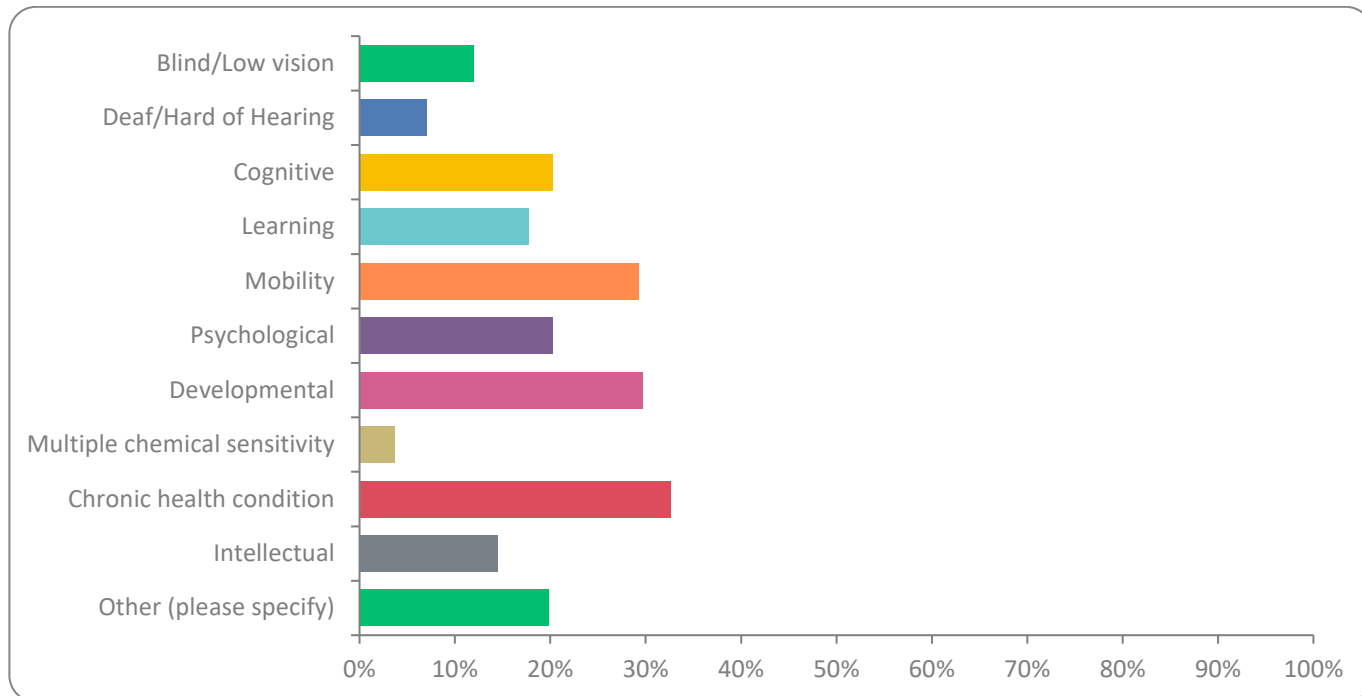
1. **Plans for public emergencies and disasters ensuring needs of people with disabilities are met**
2. **All public buildings having evacuation plans for all people with disabilities**
3. **The State of Missouri should update websites to include more language that is direct and easy to understand for those with reading or writing difficulties.**
4. **The Direct Support Professional workforce providing critical services**
5. **Ban on drivers' texting while driving**

Respondents were given the opportunity to indicate the group or groups to which they belonged: person with a disability, family member/friend, government agency employee, service provider, educator, employer, other. The person with a disability category was marked 171 times. Of the other respondents, 190 were a family member/friend, 26 represented a government agency, 113 were service providers, 38 were educators, 37 were employers, and 52 marked other.

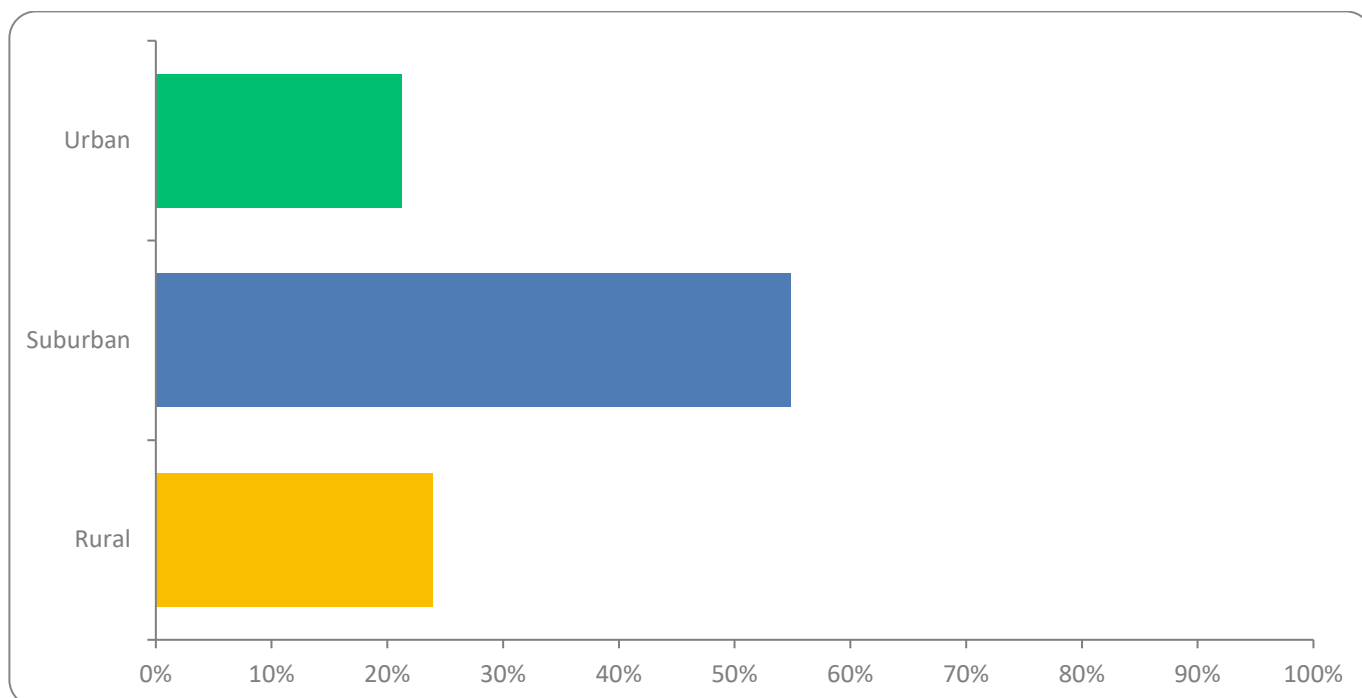


Individuals with disabilities were given the option to indicate what type or types of disability they have:

blind/low vision (29), chronic health condition (79), multiple chemical sensitivity (9), cognitive (49), deaf/hard of hearing (17), developmental (72), learning (43), mobility (71), psychological (49), intellectual (35) and other (48).



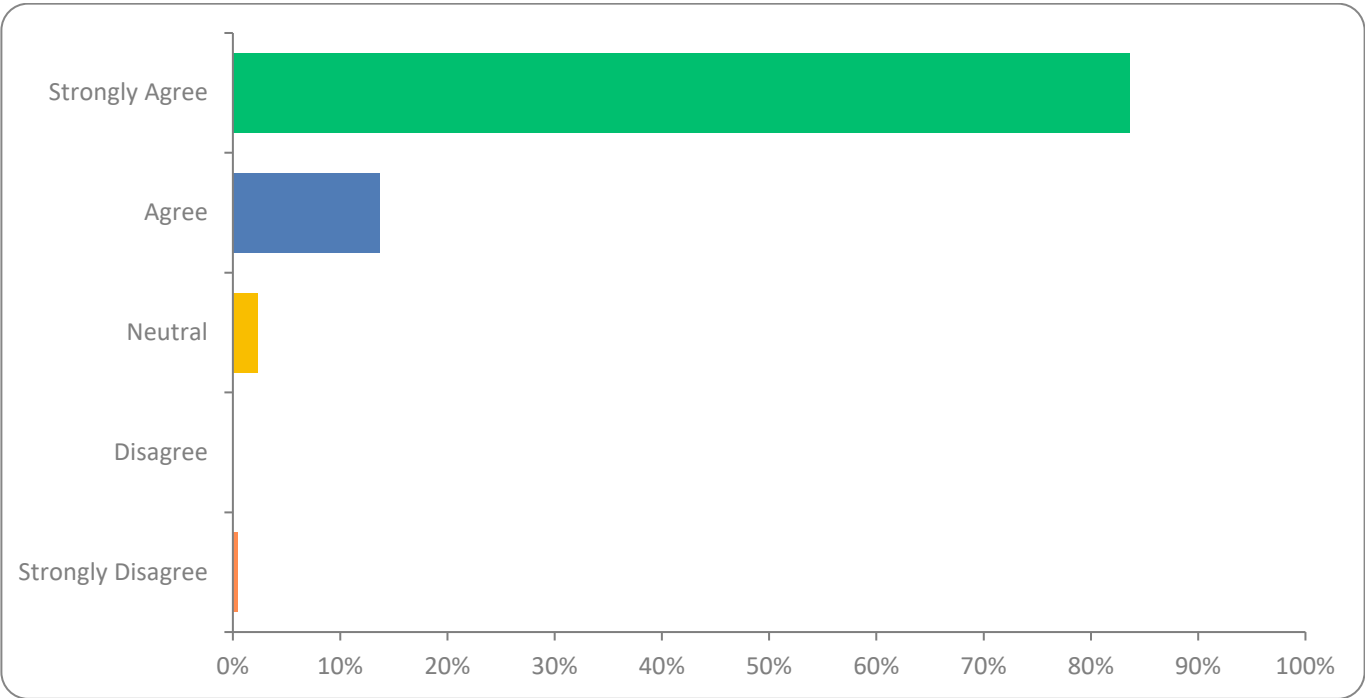
Individuals were asked to indicate what county they reside in and whether they live in an urban, suburban, or rural area. For the purposes of this report, the City of St. Louis is considered a county. Of the one hundred fifteen counties, fifty-seven are represented. For the number of respondents per county see Appendix. As indicated by self-report, 96 (21.24%) live in urban areas, 248 (54.87%) live in suburban areas, and 108 (23.89%) live in rural areas.



The following are the individual question results. Some respondents did not answer every question.

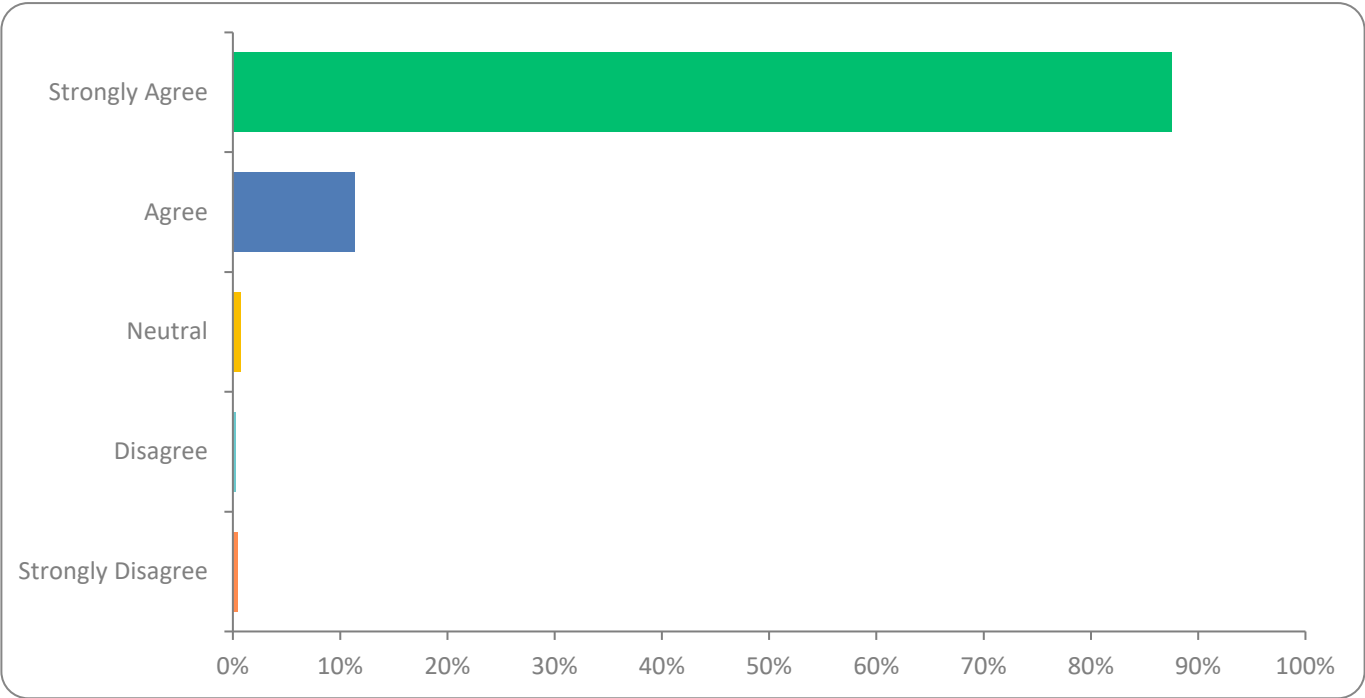
1. All public buildings should have emergency plans, which include plans for evacuation of people with all types of disabilities.

83.64% strongly agree 13.64% agree, 2.27% are neutral, 0.00% disagree, and 0.45% strongly disagree.



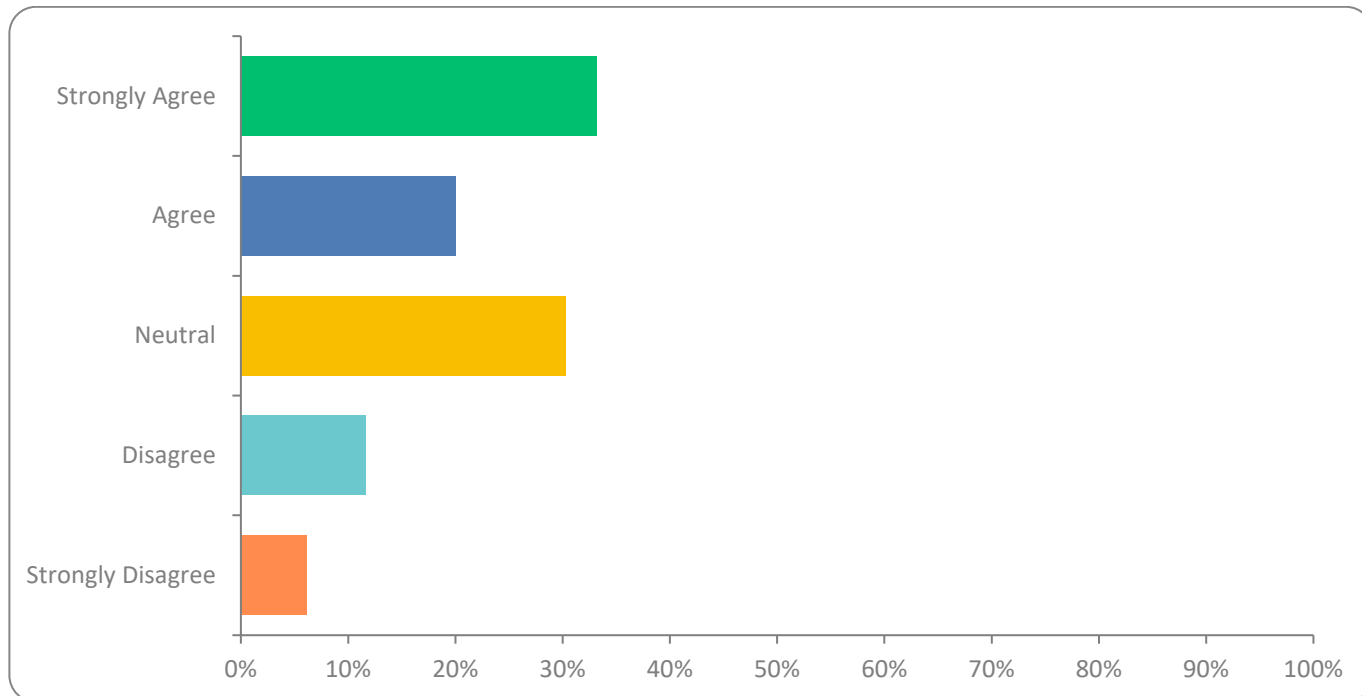
2. All plans for public emergencies and disasters should include provisions to ensure the needs of people with disabilities are met.

87.50% strongly agree 11.36% agree, 0.68% are neutral, 0.23% disagree, and 0.45% strongly disagree.



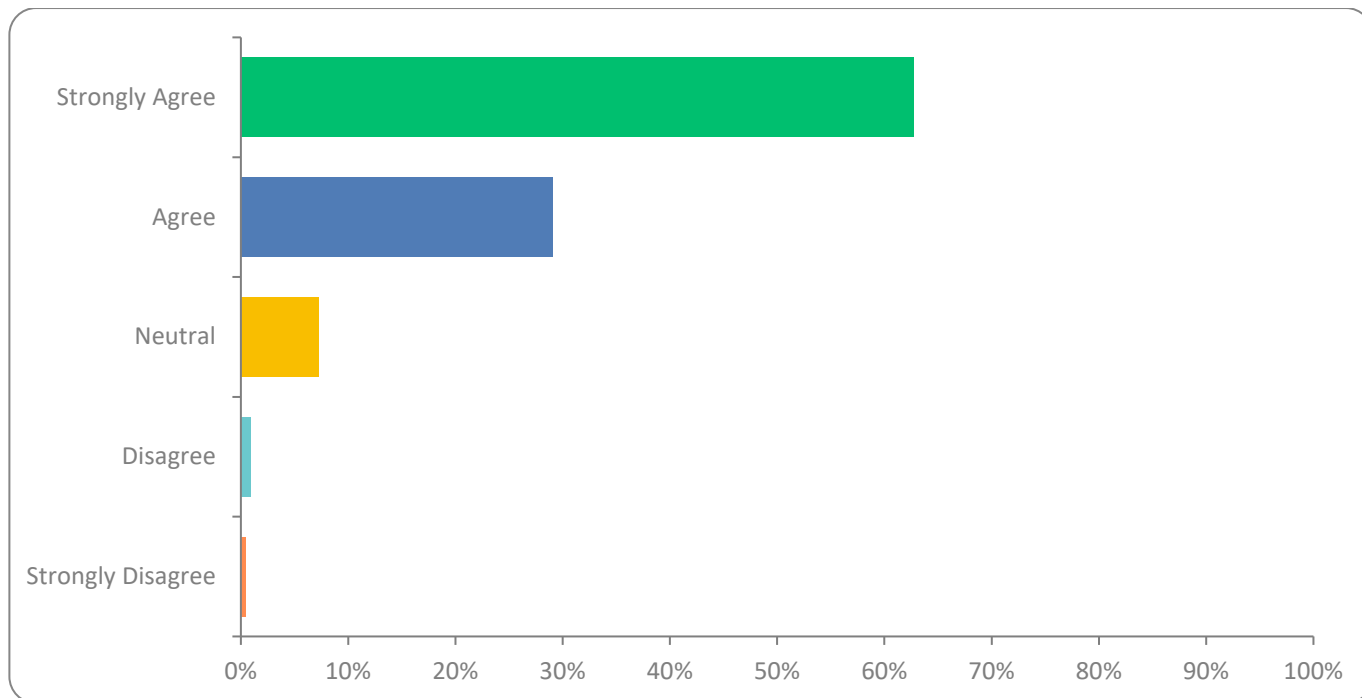
3. All Missouri statutes and bills should not use terms such as handicapped, disabled, special needs, etc. when referring to people with disabilities.

33.18% strongly agree, 20.00% agree, 30.23% are neutral, 11.59% disagree, and 6.14% strongly disagree.



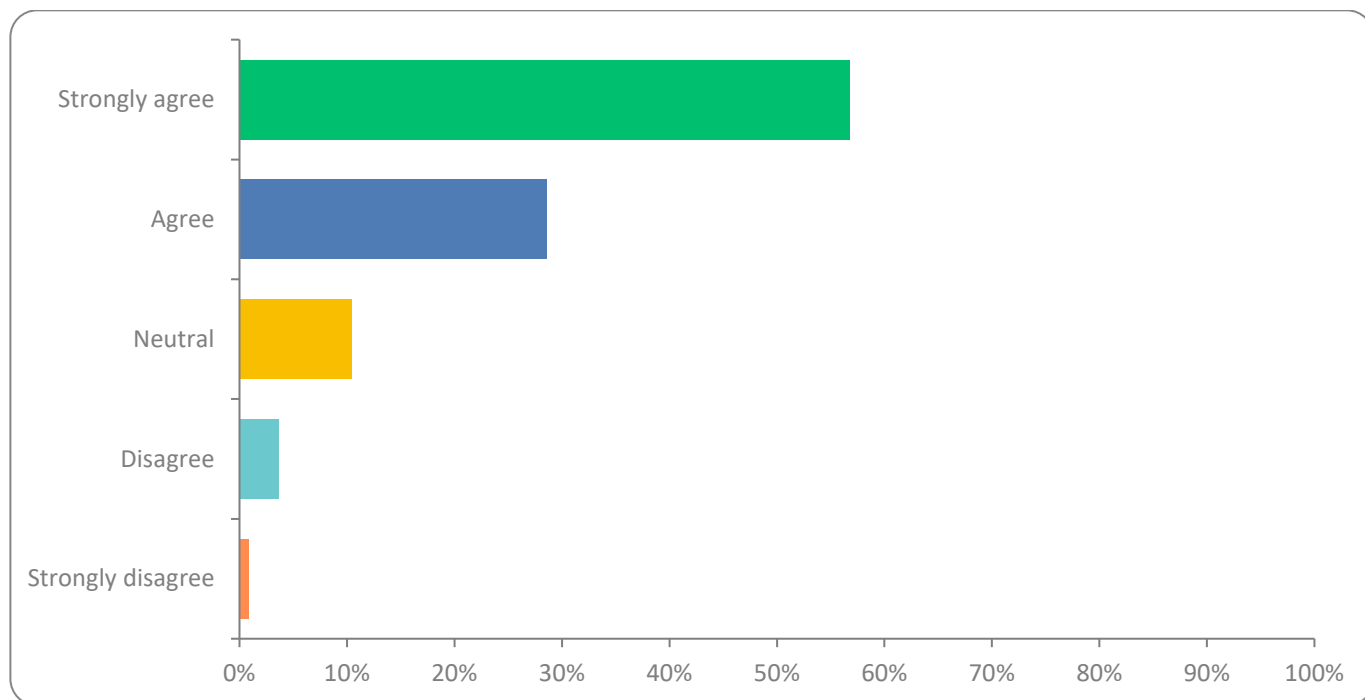
4. The State of Missouri should update websites to include more language that is direct and easy to understand for those with reading or writing difficulties.

62.73% strongly agree, 29.09% agree, 7.27% are neutral, 0.91% disagree, and 0.45% strongly disagree.



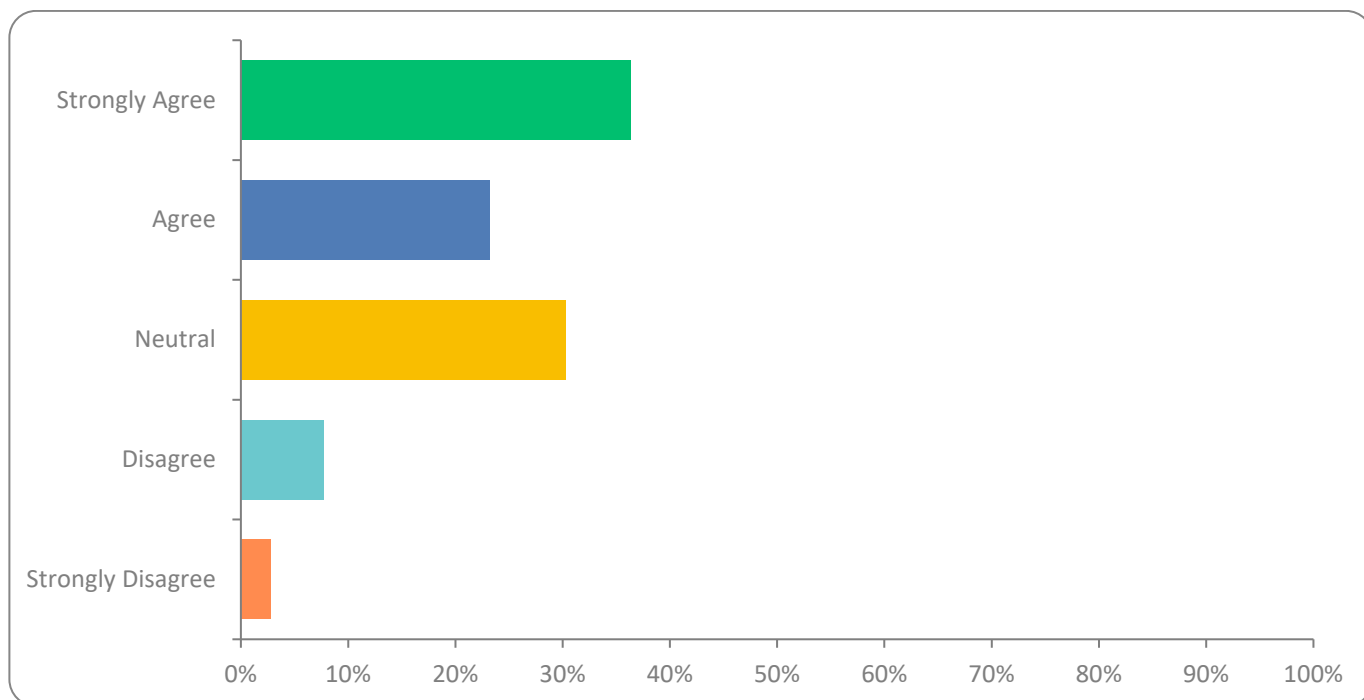
5. The legislature should provide funding for people to renovate or build homes which would allow them to continue to live there as they get older.

56.82% strongly agree, 28.64% agree, 10.45% are neutral, 3.64% disagree, and 0.91% strongly disagree.



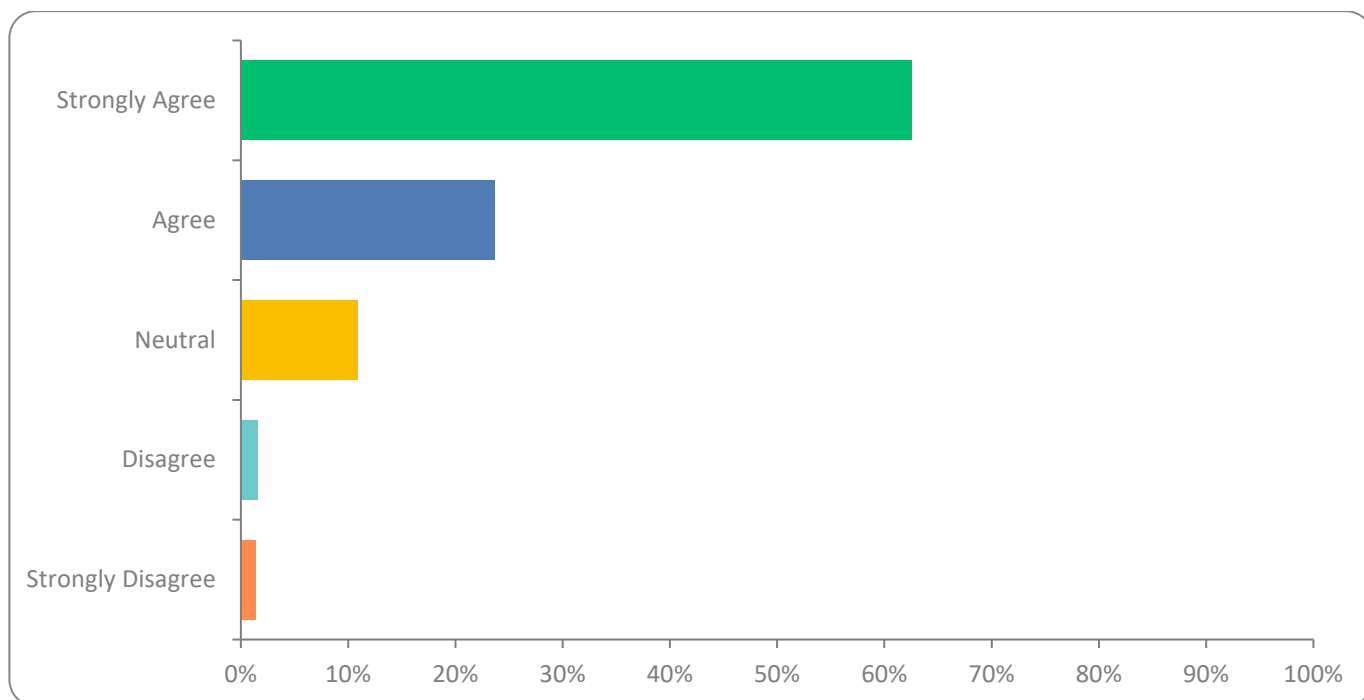
6. There should be a freeze on property taxes for people with disabilities.

36.36% strongly agree, 23.18% agree, 30.23% are neutral, 7.73% disagree, and 2.73% strongly disagree.



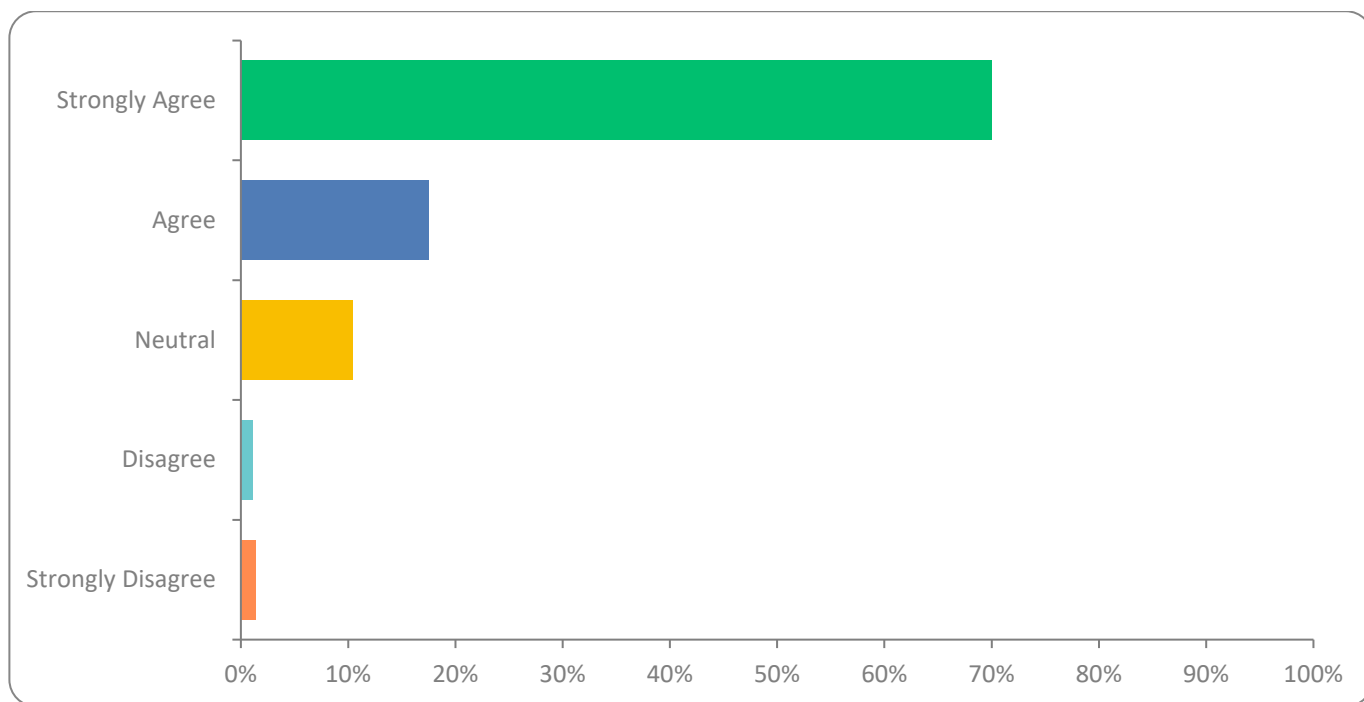
7. There should be a ban on drivers' texting while driving.

62.50% strongly agree, 23.64% agree, 10.91% are neutral, 1.59% disagree, and 1.36% strongly disagree.



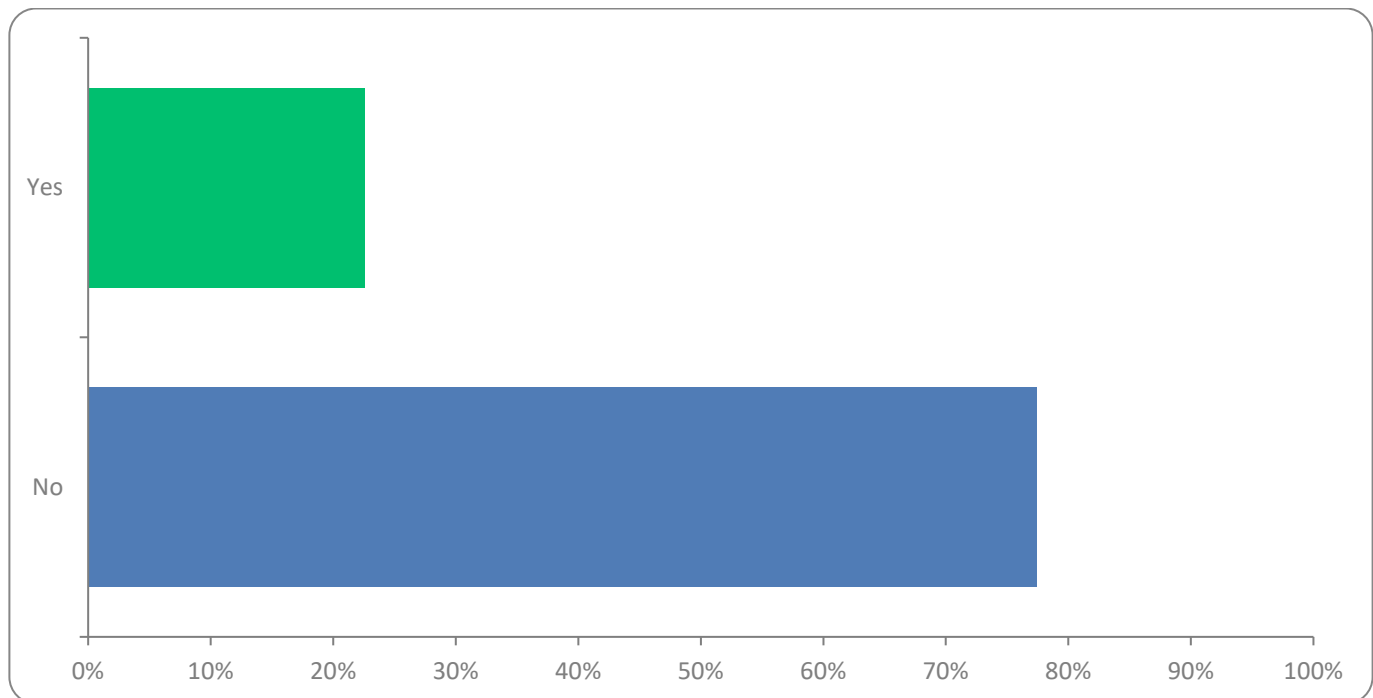
8. The direct support professional workforce provides critical services to people with disabilities.

70.00% strongly agree, 17.50% agree, 10.45% are neutral, 1.14% disagree, and 1.36% strongly disagree.



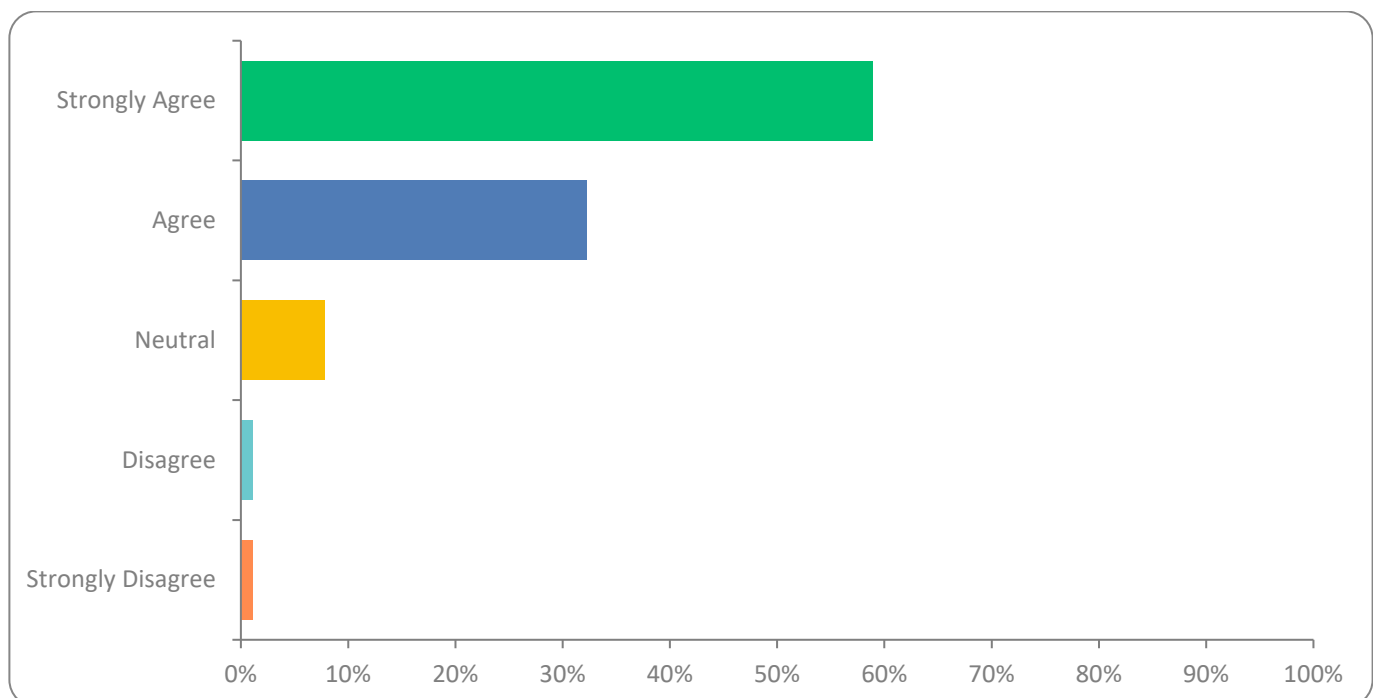
The remaining questions were split into sections: Assistance Services and Health Care, Housing, and Employment. The Assistance Services and Health Care section included:

9. Do you use direct support professional services? 22.55% Yes, 77.45% No

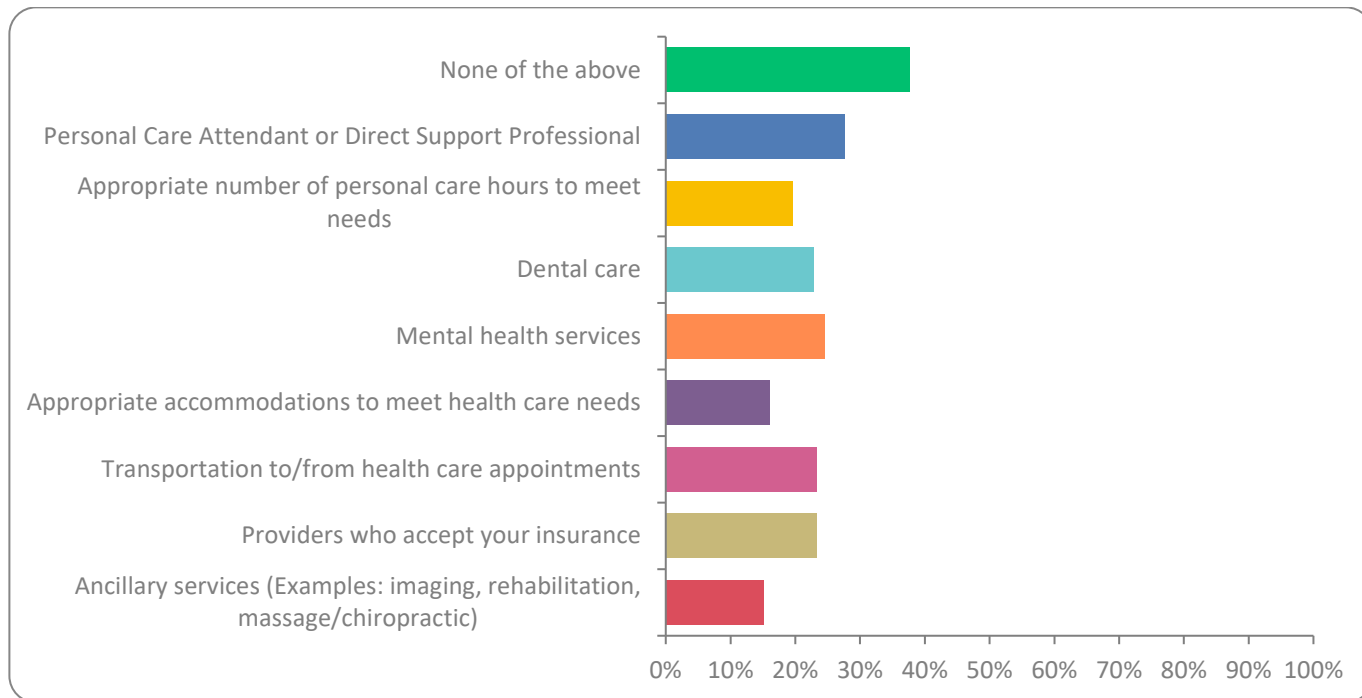


My direct support professional helps me be independent and a part of the community.

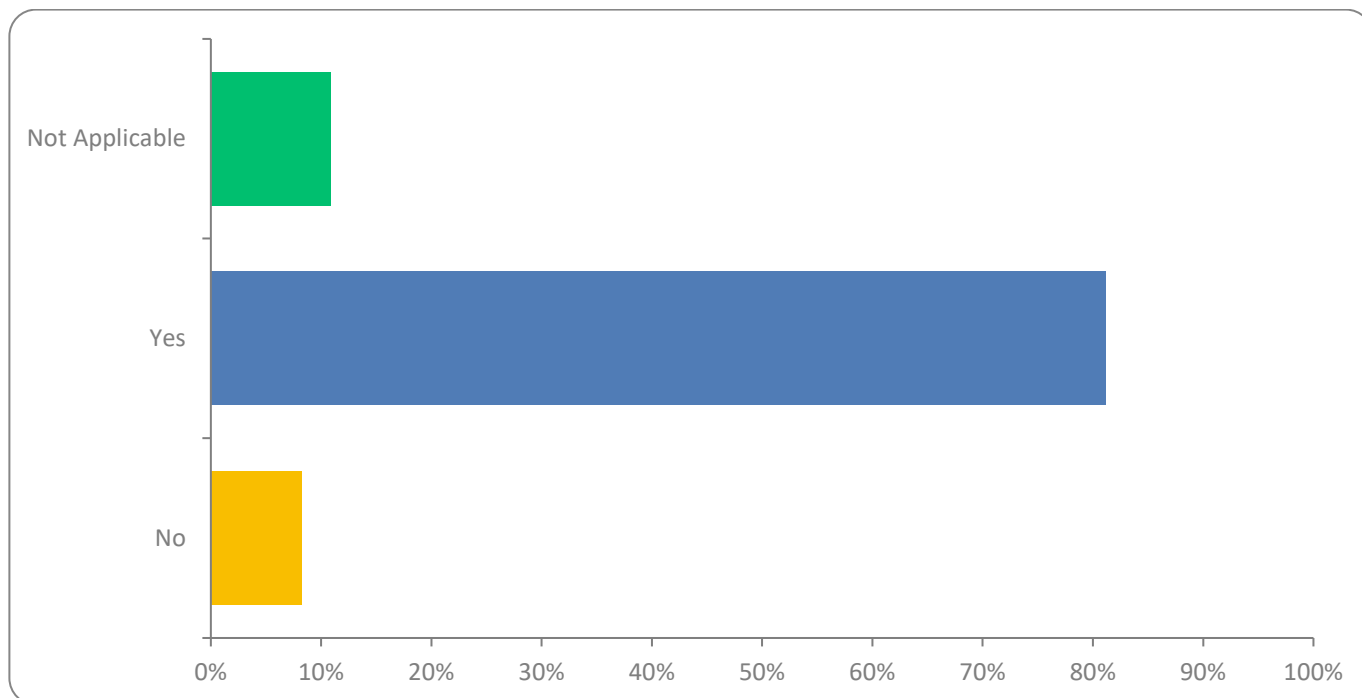
(This was only answered by those who responded “Yes” to the previous question.) 58.89% strongly agree, 32.22% agree, 7.78% are neutral, 1.11% disagree, and 1.11% strongly disagree.



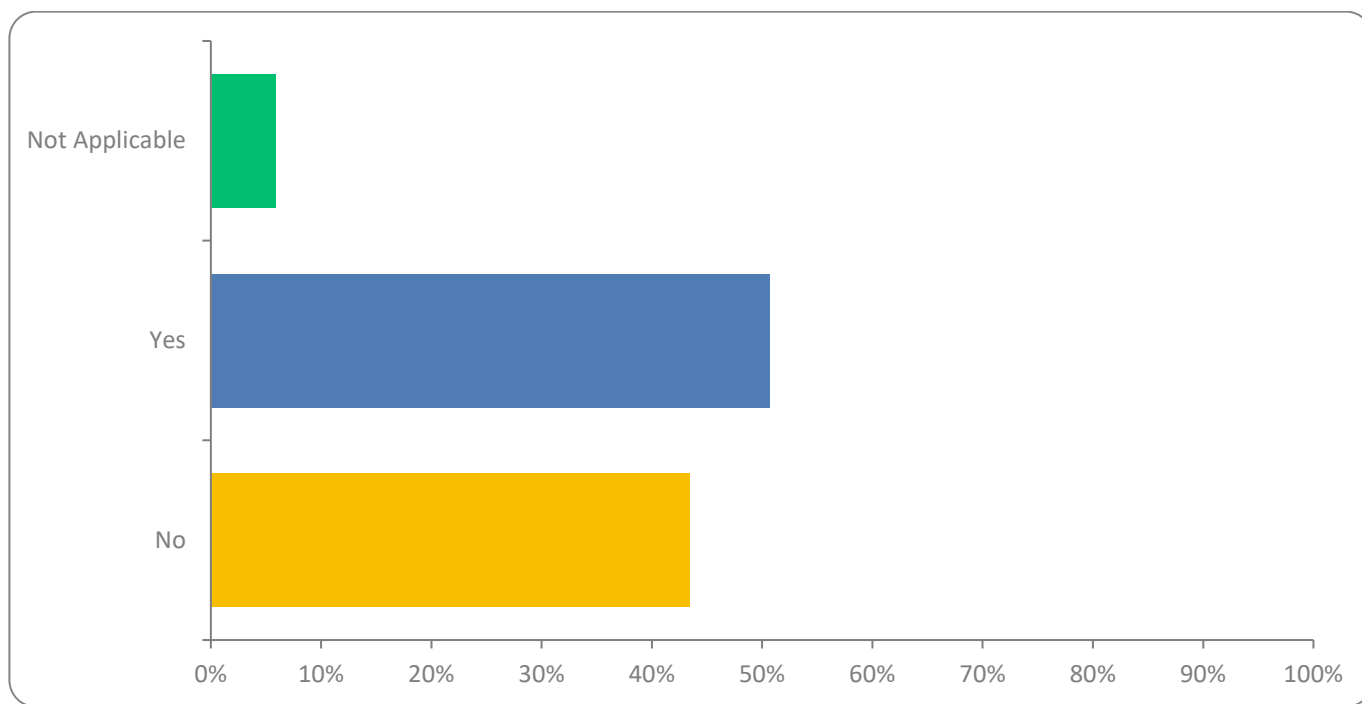
10. Indicate which, if any health care services they have difficulty accessing. 27.59% Personal Care Attendant or Direct Support Professional, 19.58% appropriate number of personal care hours to meet needs, 22.88% dental care, 24.53% mental health services, 16.04% appropriate accommodations to meet health care needs, 23.35% transportation to/from health care appointments, 23.35% providers who accept individual's insurance, 15.09% ancillary services, 37.74% none of the above



11. Have you found COVID-19 information and testing to be accessible? 81.13% Yes, 8.25% No, 10.85% Not applicable

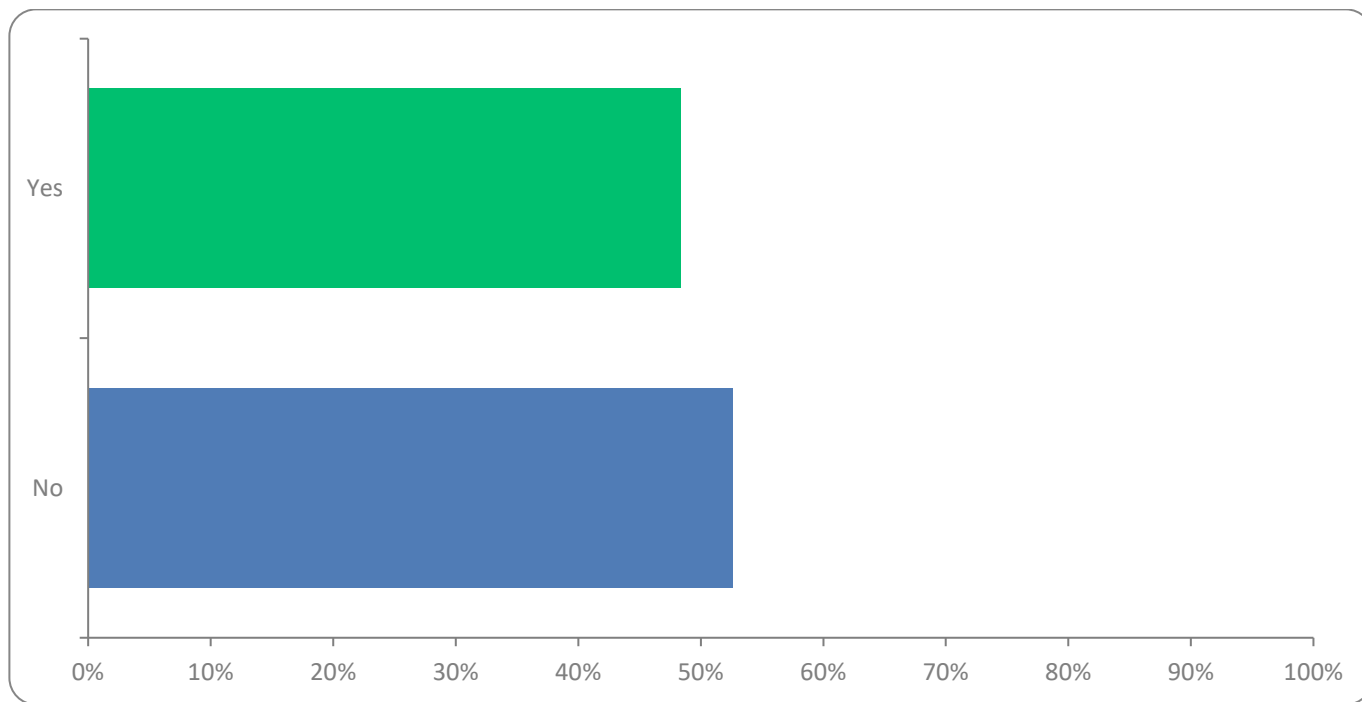


12. Have you or someone you know experienced long COVID symptoms? 50.71% Yes, 43.40% No, 5.90% Not applicable

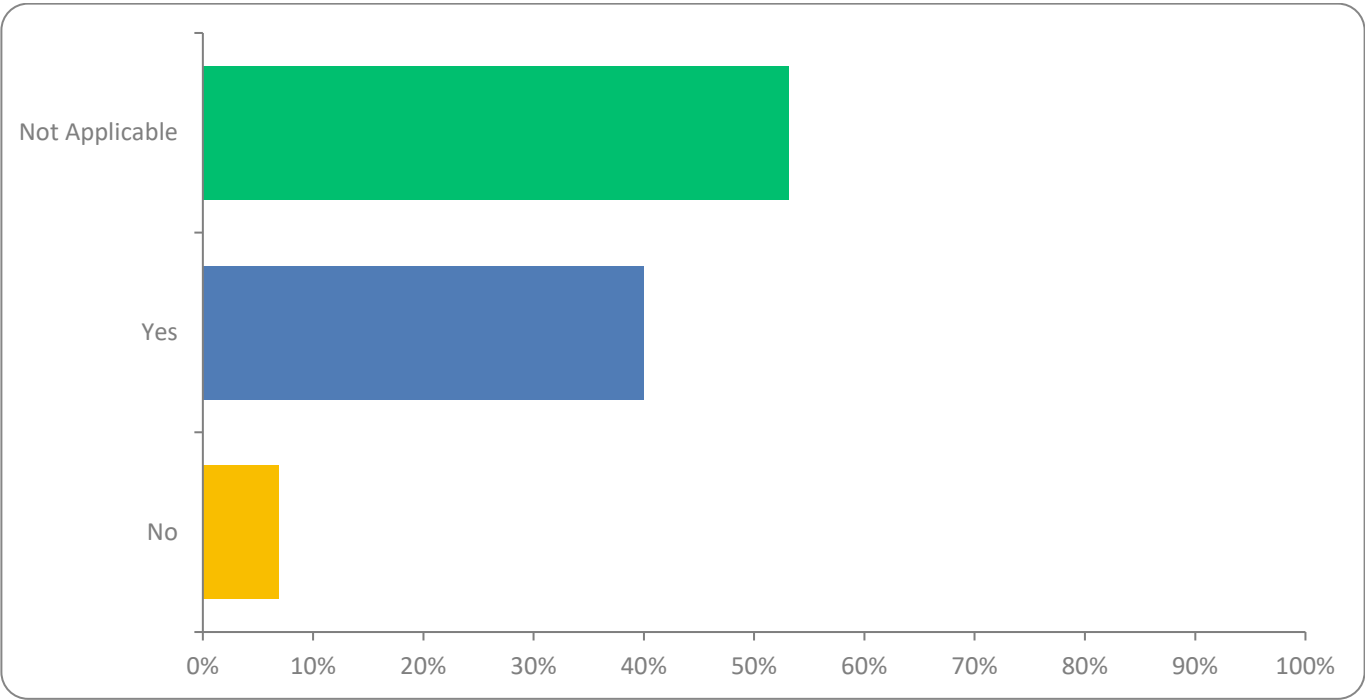


The Housing section included:

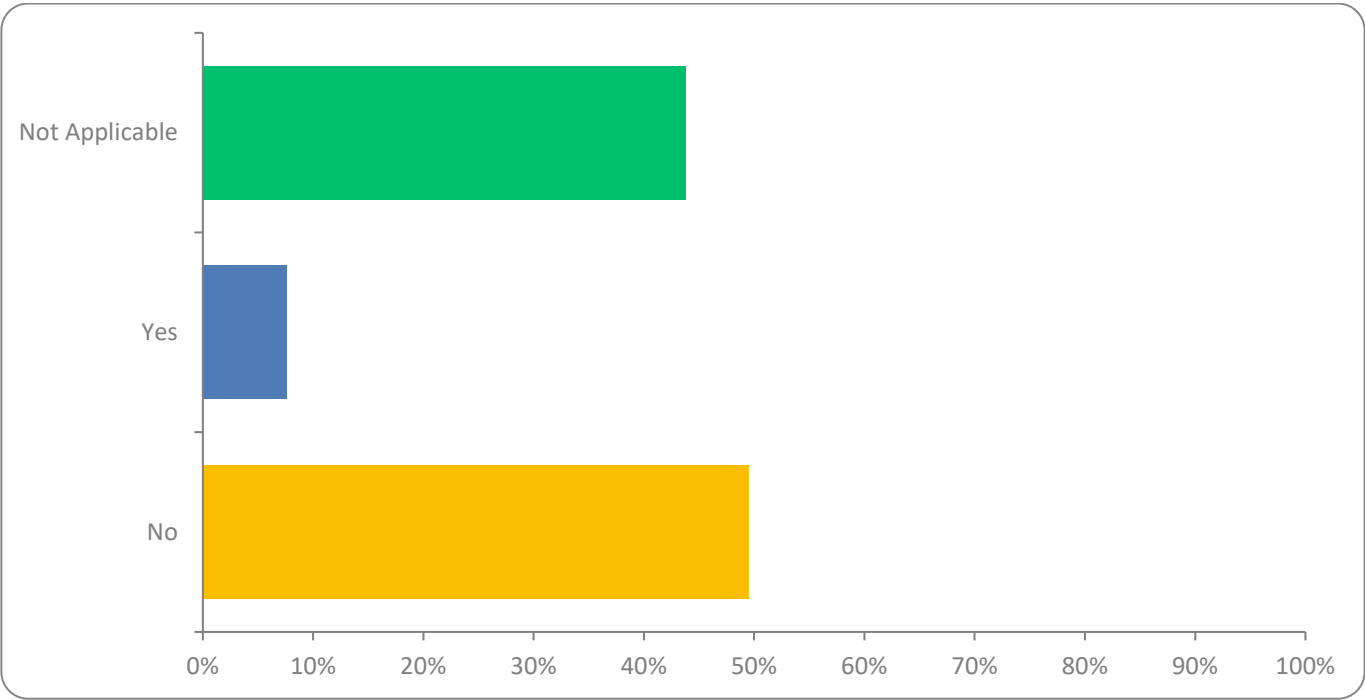
13. Is accessible housing available in your community? 48.33% Yes, 52.62% No



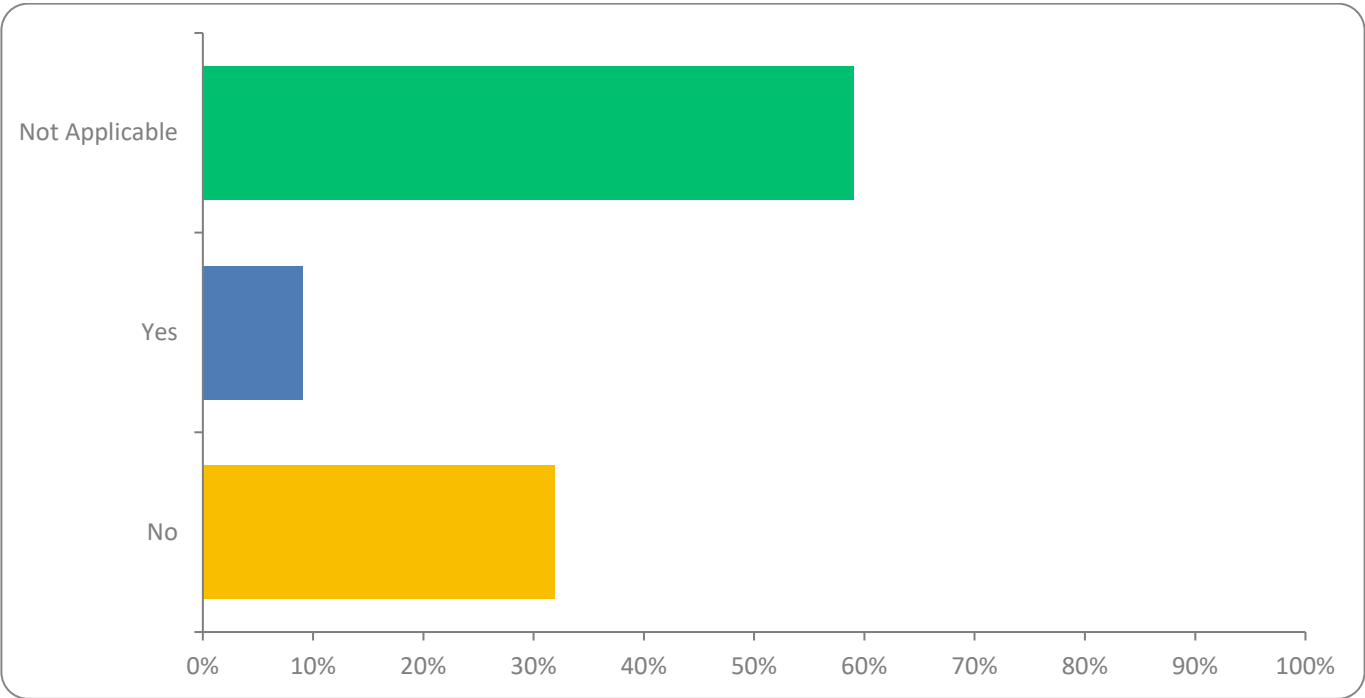
14. Do you have difficulty finding available rental properties that meet your needs? 40.00% Yes, 6.90% No, 53.10% Not applicable



15. Are rental costs affordable based on your income? 7.62% Yes, 49.52% No, 43.81% Not applicable

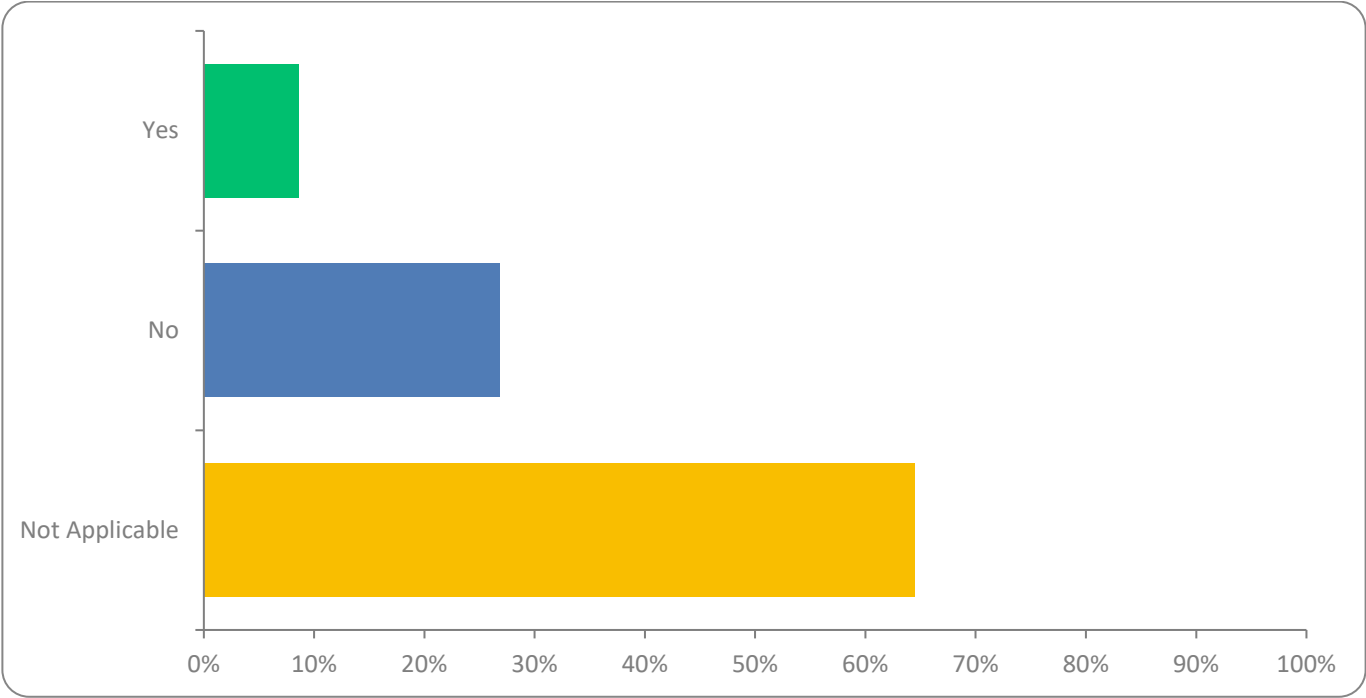


16. Have you experienced discrimination in renting? 9.05% Yes, 31.90% No, 59.05% Not applicable



17. Why have you experienced discrimination in renting? (Only answered by those who answered yes to the previous question) This was an open answer response. Responses included: disability, having service dog, type of income, needing a co-signer, Section 8, having a guardian, being a single mother, race

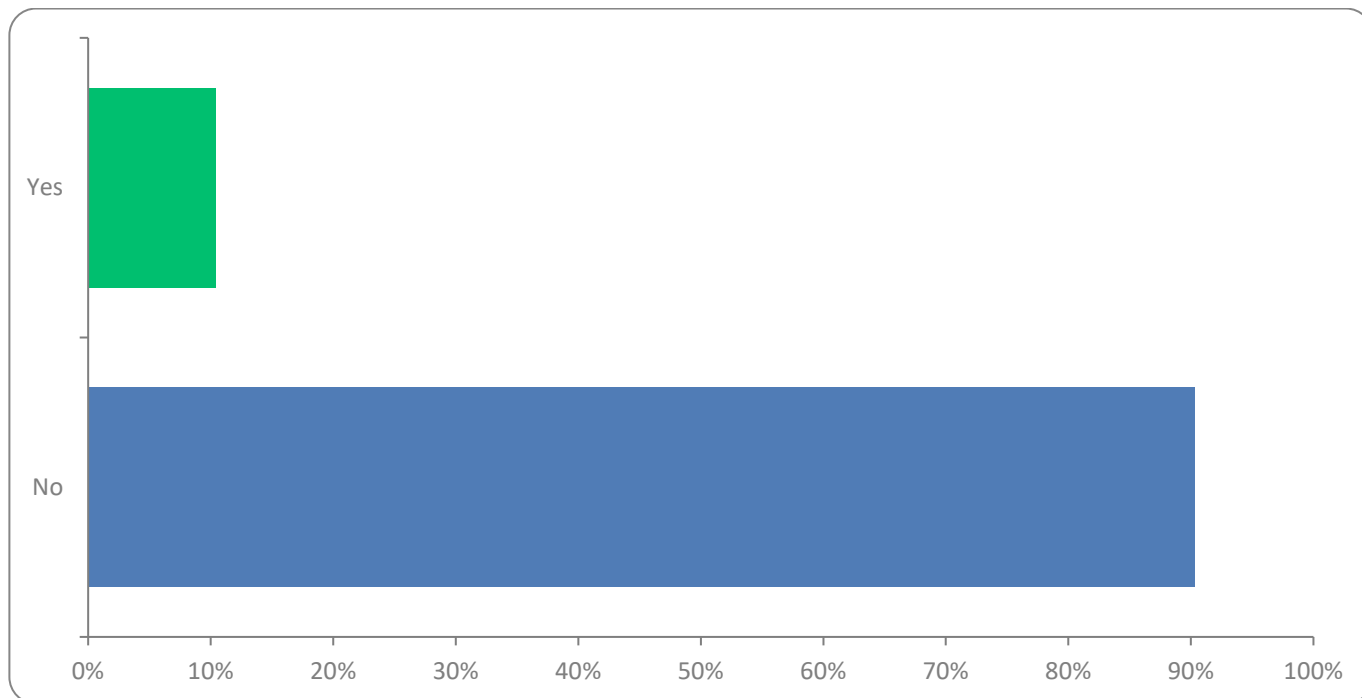
18. Have you experienced rental application rejections? 8.63% Yes, 26.86% No, 64.51% Not applicable



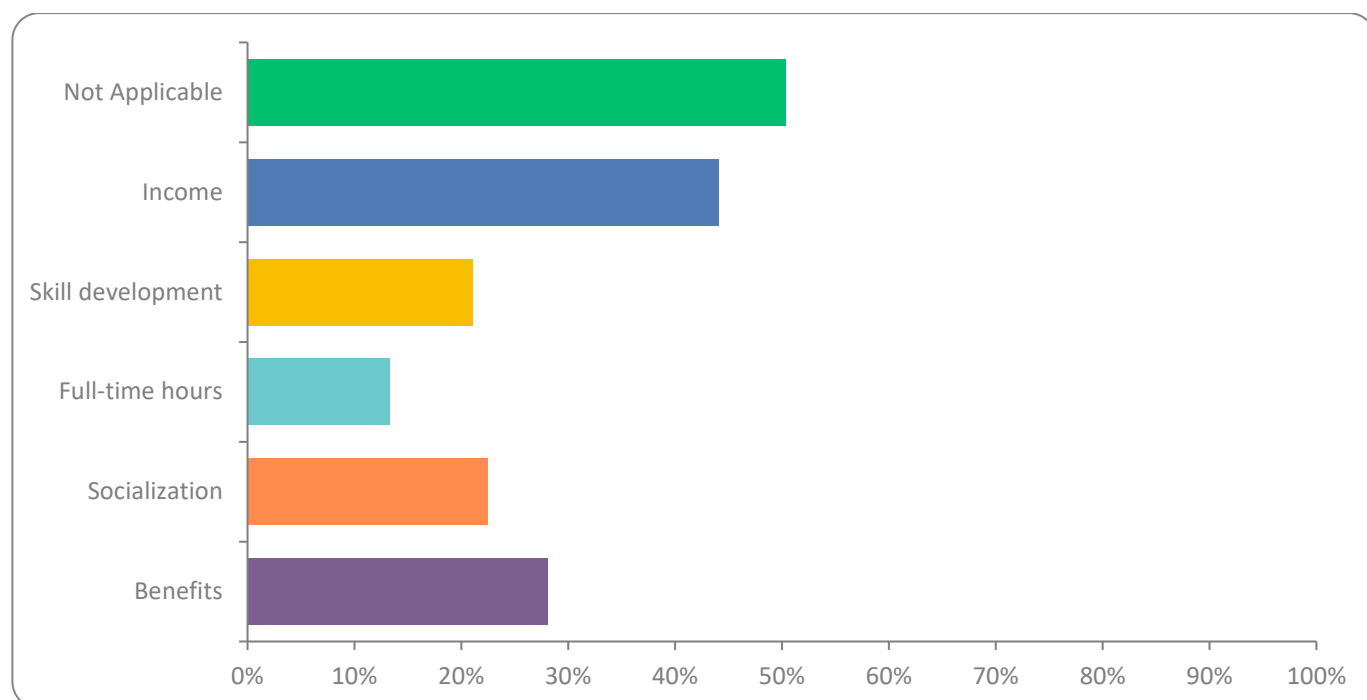
19. Why have you experienced rental application rejections? (Only answered by those who answered yes to the previous question) This was an open answer response. Responses included: income, lack of credit, disability, race, single mother

The Employment section included:

20. Are you currently seeking employment? 10.42% Yes, 90.32% No



21. What motivates you to obtain employment? 44.07% Income, 21.07% skill development, 13.32% full-time hours, 22.52% socialization, 28.09% benefits, 50.36% not applicable



22. Describe any barriers people with disabilities experience when attempting to obtain employment. This was an open answer response. Responses included: attitudes, lack of knowledge/understanding by employers, transportation, loss of benefits, not providing accommodations

There were several opportunities for individuals to share their personal thoughts regarding issues with competitive employment, housing, health care, transportation, what changes legislators could make to improve opportunities in each area for people with disabilities, and what they would like legislators to work on during the upcoming legislative session to make Missouri more disability friendly. There were several topics mentioned frequently, which included:

- Employers not being willing to hire and accommodate people with disabilities, employers need more training and education regarding people with disabilities, need for higher wages/salaries
 - Legislators can provide incentives for hiring people with disabilities and creating part-time positions, work on the issues surrounding sheltered workshops.
 - Low teacher pay, not providing appropriate skills for jobs, lack of funding
 - Legislators can increase pay and funding. Also, do more work around special education, inclusion, accommodations
 - More housing needs to be affordable and accessible, rent is too high
 - Legislators can incentivize building for people with disabilities and making modifications, create more housing options
 - Lack of transportation throughout the state, not having accessible options, high costs
 - Legislators can increase transportation funding.
 - Health care is too expensive, issues with MO HealthNet, mental health services
 - Legislators can increase reimbursement rates.
- Many of the comments regarding making Missouri more disability-friendly reiterated answers to other questions.

Respondents were given the option to share issues related to people with disabilities and the COVID-19 pandemic. 202 provided thoughts. The responses covered a variety of topics.

In an effort to ensure each citizen voice is heard in its entirety we will be sending the responses from each question via email to legislative and elected officials' offices.

Appendix

County	Number	County	Number	County	Number
Adair	4	Harrison		Phelps	8
Andrew	2	Henry		Pike	1
Atchison	1	Hickory		Platte	5
Audrain		Holt		Polk	1
Barry		Howard		Pulaski	2
Barton		Howell	2	Putnam	3
Bates		Iron		Ralls	
Benton	2	Jackson	52	Randolph	2
Bollinger		Jasper	5	Ray	4
Boone	19	Jefferson	10	Reynolds	
Buchanan	4	Johnson	1	Ripley	
Butler		Knox		St. Charles	42
Caldwell		Laclede		St. Clair	1
Callaway	5	Lafayette	3	Ste. Genevieve	
Camden	1	Lawrence		St. Francois	
Cape Girardeau	8	Lewis		St. Louis	95
Carroll		Lincoln	3	St. Louis City	39
Carter		Linn		Saline	5
Cass	2	Livingston		Schuyler	
Cedar		Macon	1	Scotland	
Chariton	1	Madison		Scott	1
Christian	7	Maries		Shannon	
Clark	2	Marion		Shelby	
Clay	15	McDonald		Stoddard	
Clinton		Mercer		Stone	2
Cole	14	Miller	3	Sullivan	
Cooper		Mississippi		Taney	3
Crawford	1	Moniteau	1	Texas	
Dade		Monroe	1	Vernon	1
Dallas	2	Montgomery		Warren	
Daviess	2	Morgan	1	Washington	1
De Kalb		New Madrid		Wayne	
Dent		Newton	5	Webster	
Douglas		Nodaway	3	Worth	
Dunklin		Oregon	3	Wright	
Franklin	5	Osage	1		
Gasconade	2	Ozark	1		
Gentry		Pemiscot			
Greene	38	Perry			
Grundy		Pettis	3		